GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3211
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
FERTILIZERS TO FARMERS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for organic fertilizers is much more than chemical fertilizers in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fertilizers units are finding it difficult to meet the demand of organic fertilizers;

(d) if so, steps being envisaged to meet the demand;

(e) the measures taken to ensure easy supply of fertilizers to farmers at low cost;

(f) whether our PSUs are competent to produce both organic fertilizers; and (g) if so, the details thereof? A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d) The organic manures are considered useful sources of nutrients. However, being low nutrient containing products they can meet only a small part of crop requirement. The demand for organic manures is not being assessed as these products are locally prepared and used as they are in un-organised sector. High yielding varieties of crops need high amounts of nutrients which can be supplied through chemical fertilizers only. The consumption of fertilizers expressed in terms of nutrients (N P K) was 167.98 lakh tonnes during 1998-99. The estimated consumption during 1999-2000 would be about 183.0 lakh tonnes of nutrients (NPK).

Under a Central Sector Scheme on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers,Government of India is giving grant in aid upto Rs.20 lakhs for setting up/ strengthening of bio-fertilizer production units of 150 tonnes capacity per annum by State Governments/Public Sector Companies and others. Till date, 63 bio- fertilizer production units have been approved. Government of India is also encouraging the establishment of compost plants for which grants upto Rs.50 lakhs per compost plant of a minimum of 100 tonnes per day capacity is being given to convert urban waste into compost.
(e) The demand of chemical fertilizers for different States is assessed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in biannual meetings which are held before Kharif and Rabi seasons. The State Governments, Fertilizer industry and otherconcerned Union Ministries participate in these meetings which are traditionally called as Fertilizer zonal conferences. The urea is a major source of nitrogen supply. Its price and movement is statutorily controlled. Its supply is ensured throughout the country as per assessed demand. Phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are though decontrolled with respect to price and movement, to ensure their supply at affordable price to farmers, Government of India gives concessionon sale of these fertilizers according to the quantities consumed in different States. The availability and supply of fertilizers is periodically monitored by the Government to ensure that there is no shortages in the country.

(f) & (g) Our PSUs are competent to produce both chemical fertilizers andorganic fertilizers. Among organic fertilizers, some of them are producing only bio- fertilizers. There are 16 bio-fertilizers production units owned by PSUs.